

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, undated, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Jan. 2, 1896  
Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County, Cape Breton, N. S. My dear Mrs. Bell:

I am so sorry to think of you back again in the city at this season of the year. I am sure that Colonial Beach must be delightful now, that the hot summer is over. It is delightful here and there seems no reason why any one should have left. We are not quite deserted as it is for my cousins Tracy and Gardiner Hubbard are with us, also Gracie Bell. The young people are most of them busy at this moment painting the portrait of "The Great Zollinski." You will have heard of him before. His mantle is supposed to have fallen on the shoulders of my cousin Gardiner Hubbard, and we are making some brilliant posters showing the great Zollinski and labelled, The Great Zollinski is Coming! These we are going to put up all over country and hope thereby to get a good audience for the performance Gardiner is going to give in aid of the Public Library, etc. By the way this seems a good occasion to put in a plea for books for this library. Any surplus books or magazines that you or Mr. Bell can spare would be very gratefully received and will be put to good use. There is no other Public Library outside Halifax in the Province and our books are being circulated all through the country. We want increased fund to establish it on a firm basis with regular librarian and reading room, so that we want to save our funds for that purpose and depend on our friends to give us books.

I don't think you need be disturbed about Alec's flying machine yet awhile. He is working intensely hard over it, but so 2 Baddeck far he confines himself to scientific experiments relating to the different positions of wings and motors. These spin around on a central axis but are fastened to the roof, and all Alec tried to do is to see how much lighter the machine becomes in the different arrangements of motors and wings. He will not be ready

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to construct an outdoor machine for many months yet. He is very well and happy and proud of his accomplishments as a bicycle rider. I haven't got to that point yet in spite of several attempts, but will have to learn now or lose my daily walk to the laboratory with my husband.

We talk of going to Camp again the last of this week, none of the young people have been out and all want to go.

Please give my love to Mr. Bell and thank him for his little postal. I am ashamed to be such a bad correspondent and don't think any amount of work a real excuse, but still it is true that when one leads an irregular life and people are in and out all the time it is hard to find time for anything steady.

Much love to my cousins, Ever your affectionate, Mabel.